

wherein the at least one controller is operative to transfer carrier liquid from the central source of carrier liquid to the individual imaging apparatus as required by the apparatus for cleaning.

36. (Amended) A system according to claim 34 and including a carrier liquid return conduit that collects carrier liquid after use by the imaging device and transfers it to the central source of carrier liquid.

38. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise electrostatographic imaging apparatus.

39. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise electrophotographic apparatus.

40. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise printers.

41. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise copiers.

REMARKS

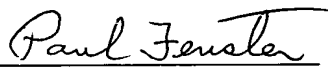
The present application is a U.S. national application of PCT/IL99/00394. The present amendments, based on the original claims, and, to the extent that the claims have been amended in the international stage, on the claims attached to the IPER, have been made to place the application in proper US form. The application contains claims 1-46.

Applicants note that the claims (except for claim 22 which was not examined) were indicated as meeting the criteria of PCT Article 33(2)-33(4) in the IPER issued by the European Patent Office (acting as IPEA).

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto, for reference. An action on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,
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December 31, 2001
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Marked-Up Amended Claims

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 3 [or 4] wherein:

the central source of toner concentrate comprises a central container of toner concentrate, containing a concentrate of the same color as a liquid-toner contained in a liquid-toner reservoir of the imaging apparatus; and

the toner concentrate conduit is a branching feed line comprising:

a junction having an input port and a plurality of output ports;

a line connecting the source with the input port; and

a plurality of lines, each connecting one of the output ports with a different one of the imaging apparatus.

8. (Amended) A system according to [any the claims 3-7] claim 3 wherein the at least one toner-concentrate pump comprises a high-viscosity pump.

9. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 3-8] claim 3 wherein the imaging apparatus are multi-colored and comprising a plurality of central sources of toner concentrate, each having a different color of toner concentrate.

11. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 3-10] claim 3 wherein each liquid-toner reservoir comprises a particle density measurement device that measures a quantity related to the density of toner particles in the liquid toner and sends the measurements to the at least one controller and wherein the at least one controller transfers toner concentrate to the liquid toner reservoir responsive to the measurements.

12. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 3-11] claim 3 wherein:

each of the printing apparatus includes:

a carrier-liquid reservoir from which carrier liquid is supplied to the liquid-toner reservoir; and

at least one local carrier liquid conduit through which carrier liquid is supplied to the liquid-toner reservoir, responsive to commands from the at least one controller; and

the system includes:

a central source of carrier liquid; and

a central carrier liquid conduit which carries the carrier liquid to individual ones of the carrier liquid reservoirs responsive to commands from the at least one controller.

17. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 12, 15 or 16] claim 15 wherein the central carrier-liquid conduit comprises a branching carrier-liquid feed line, comprising:

a proximal end at the central source of carrier liquid; and
distal ends at the imaging apparatus.

19. (Amended) A system according to claim 17 [or claim 18] wherein:

the carrier-liquid conduit comprises a pump; and
the pump is controlled by the at least one controller.

20. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 12 or 15-19] claim 15 wherein:

each carrier-liquid reservoir comprises a carrier-liquid level indicator; and
measurements of the carrier-liquid level indicator are sent to the at least one controller.

21. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 12 or 15-20] claim 15 wherein each imaging apparatus comprises a conductivity measurement device that measures the conductivity of liquid toner in the liquid toner reservoir; and including:

a source of charge director solution; and
at least one charge director solution conduit that communicates between the source of charge director solution and the at least one carrier liquid conduit, wherein a quantity of charge director solution is sent to the reservoir responsive to a low conductivity measurement.

23. (Amended) A system according to [claim 21 or] claim 22 wherein, in transferring the charge director to the reservoir, the controller is operative to transfer the quantity of charge director solution to a local carrier liquid conduit from which it is carried by a subsequent transfer of carrier liquid to the reservoir.

25. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 21-24] claim 22 wherein the quantity of charge director solution sent to the liquid toner reservoir is substantially less than the quantity of carrier liquid sent to the reservoir.

31. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 27-30] claim 27 wherein:
the imaging apparatus are multi-colored; and
a liquid-toner inlet line comprises a plurality of liquid-toner inlet lines.

32. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 27-31] claim 27 wherein the central source of liquid toner is multi-colored, comprising a plurality of central containers of liquid toner of different colors.

34. (Amended) A system according to [any of claims 27-33] claim 27 and including:
a central source of carrier liquid; and
a carrier liquid conduit that connects the central source to the individual imaging apparatus,
wherein the at least one controller is operative to transfer carrier liquid from the central source of carrier liquid to the individual imaging apparatus as required by the apparatus for cleaning.

36. (Amended) A system according to claim 34 [or claim 35] and including a carrier liquid return conduit that collects carrier liquid after use by the imaging device and transfers it to the central source of carrier liquid.

38. (Amended) A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise electrostatographic imaging apparatus.

39. (Amended) A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise electrophotographic apparatus.

40. (Amended) A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise printers.

41. (Amended) A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the imaging apparatus comprise copiers.